



Axbridge C of E Academy

Together We Inspire, Thrive & Excel

"I have come so that you may have life, life in all its fullness"

John 10:10

Issue # 14

15th December 2025

Dear Families,

I would like to share a heartfelt thank you to all those who attended or supported Friday's PTA Christmas Fair. It was lovely to see so many families come together, filling the school with laughter, excitement and festive cheer.

Thanks to your generosity and support, the fair raised in excess of £1500 for the school, which will make a real difference for our children. I would like to offer a very heartfelt thank you to our amazing PTA; their dedication, time and energy for our school were at the heart of the event's success. On top of this, the Christmas Jumper Day raised £300 for The Space Charity, simply incredible!!

The Christmas events do not end there, with our Carol Service taking place tonight at St John's, starting at 6pm. This is always such a joyous, uplifting event and another chance for our community to come together and celebrate the joys of the season.

A final reminder to Busy Bees parents, that any responses to the proposed change of start and finish times needs to be sent in by Wednesday. Following this, a decision will be made and shared with the families before the end of term.

Finally, on behalf of all the staff at Axbridge and myself, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

With warmest wishes,

Mr Dominic Shillabeer

Wessex Learning Trust Admission Arrangements for Somerset Schools (2027/28) Consultation

The Wessex Learning Trust are consulting on their 2027/28 admission arrangements. It is statutory to consult every 7 years or when a change is made. To view and comment on the arrangements please click here

<https://sومersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/2027-arrangements>

Our consultation will start on 1 December 2025 and end on 19 January 2026 and the final determined arrangements will be published on the Trust and our School website by 15 March 2026.



December

Monday 15th @ 6pm – Carol Service at St Johns the Baptist Church

Tuesday 16th – Christmas Lunch

Thursday 18th – PTA Craft

Session 3|:30 – 4:30pm

Friday 19th @ 9am – Church Service, all welcome!

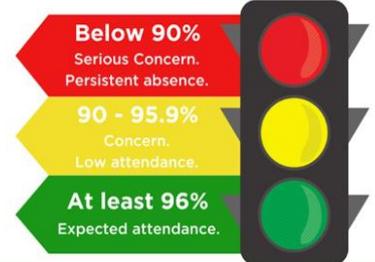
Friday 19th December - school closes for Christmas Holidays at 3:20pm



Monday 5th January 2026 - Return to school

ATTENDANCE

Every day counts!



Expected attendance means having no more than seven days off this school year!

Attendance was 96.6 % last week for the whole school, with Oak having the highest attendance across all classes, at 97.6%.

Our Christian Values are:
Community
Courage
Love

Our Christian Vision is;
"I have come so that you may have life, a life in all its fullness"
John 10:10

Our Learning Skills are:
Thinking
Social
Self-management
Communication
Research

Congratulations to our certificate winners this week, we are so proud of you!

	Pine	Hazel	Chestnut	Redwood	Oak
Star of the Week	Reggie	Rosa	Cobey	Lyra	George
Christian Values	Albie	Zachary	Tahlia	Ellie	Jesse
Learning Skills	Piotr	Kitty	Jaxson	Kobe	Monty

Headteacher's Awards

Star of the Week	Freddie W	Christian Values	Reuben M & Cobey C	Learning Skills	Alfie C
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House Points

	Black Rock	Crook Peak	King's Wood	Strawberry Line
This week	172	101	148	217



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF US ALL

Safeguarding Lead: Mr Dominic Shillabeer

Deputy Safeguarding Leads: Miss Kellie Nash and Mrs Kate Febrey



PTA Christmas Fair 2025





JOIN US FOR A
CHRISTMAS
CRAFTERNOON

THURSDAY 18TH DECEMBER
3:30 - 4:30

Come make Christmas crafts with us after school with plenty of Christmas music!
£5 per child, includes squash, a biscuit and a chocolate coin

EMAIL
PTA@AXBRIDGEFIRSTSCHOOL.CO.UK TO
BOOK

PTA BANK ACCOUNT -
NAME: AXBRIDGE FIRST SCHOOL PTA
SORT CODE: 30-91-84
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 00284059

The churches of Axbridge, Shipham and Rowberrow warmly invite you to our Christmas services.

We hope that you will be able to share with us the joy of Christmas: a time when we celebrate the gift of the birth of Jesus, the light of the World.

In amongst the busy-ness, we pray that these services will be an opportunity to focus on the Christmas message of love, hope, joy and peace.

As Christmas approaches, our minds will be occupied with our preparations of gifts and time with family and friends.

It would be lovely if you can find time and space to join with us to remember the gift of Jesus Christ, who came into the world as God in person, so we could experience the love, peace and forgiveness which is still available to all.

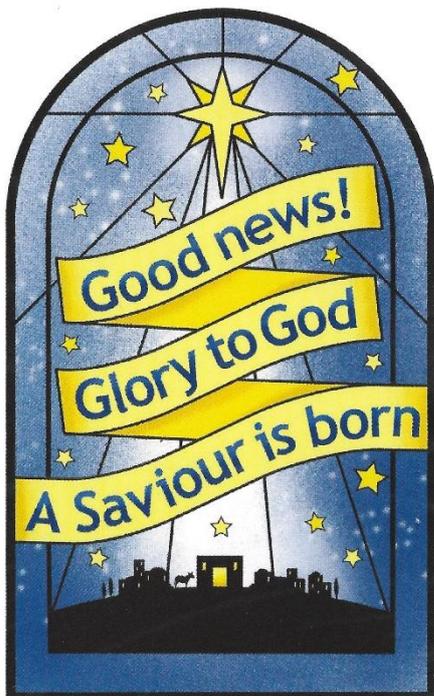
To read more about the seasons and Advent and Christmas, please follow the link: <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/advent-and-christmas> or scan the QR code below.

Wishing you a peaceful and blessed Christmas, filled with joy and love.



Happy Christmas

From the Benefice of Axbridge,
Shipham and Rowberrow

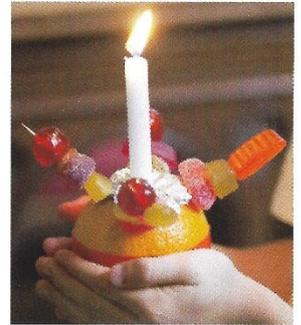


Come and join us at 4pm on Christmas Eve in Shipham or Axbridge!
You will be given a candle when you arrive, to complete the Christingle you bring.

HOW TO MAKE A CHRISTINGLE

YOU WILL NEED:

- an orange
- a small square of cooking foil
- 4 cocktail sticks
- a sharp knife
- some small sweets or dried fruit
- a short length of red ribbon (2-3 cm wide)
- a pin



HERE'S WHAT TO DO AT HOME:

1. In the top of the orange, cut a hole 1.5 centimetres across and about 2.5 centimetres deep - this is to hold the candle.
2. Line the hole with cooking foil, leaving a square of foil around the hole to catch the hot wax from the candle.
3. Fasten the ribbon around the middle of the orange by using the pin.
4. Thread the dried fruit or sweets onto the cocktail sticks.
5. Push the cocktail sticks into the orange at 90-degree intervals above the ribbon.

Don't forget to bring your Christingle with you!

St John the Baptist, Axbridge Sunday 21st December 6.00pm

Benefice Carol Service

Come and hear the story of Christmas and sing or listen to your favourite carols, with the Bristol Brass Consort, the Benefice Choir and Helen Mann (organ), directed by Mark Goddard

Christmas Eve 4.00pm Christingle (see over)
11.00pm Carols followed by:
11.30pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day 10.00am Family Service

St Leonard, Shipham

Christmas Eve 4.00pm Christingle (see over)

Christmas Day 10.00am Family Communion

St Michael & All Angels, Rowberrow

Christmas Eve 6.00pm Lessons and Carols
by Candlelight

Take some time to enjoy this traditional service in the gentle light of candles

Axbridge Sports & Social Club Present



SANTA IN THE SQUARE

20TH DECEMBER 2025 - FROM 4PM

Santa arrives at 5pm

Pig Roast, BBQ, Mulled Wine, Carols,
Live Music, Childrens Entertainment

Register by e-mail: santainthesquare@gmail.com



THE SPACE



Parent Club



THIS WEEK IS

**NAVIGATING BEING A WORKING, SINGLE MUM
WITH**



Holly

If your child or young person is experiencing challenges with sensory regulation, SEN needs, school avoidance, or anything in between — we are here for you.

Being a parent is hard. Sometimes you just want to talk to like-minded people without judgement... Sometimes you need a gentle chat with someone who truly understands. You're not alone — and support is right here when you need it.



EVERY WEDNESDAY 9-10.30AM



**COFFEE [AT] THE HUB, 1-2 LOWER NORTH STREET,
CHEDDAR, BS27 3HA (OPPOSITE TESCO EXPRESS)**



Top Tips for a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

It can be difficult to stay away from technology and devices, and sometimes this means that people – of any age – can find it hard to be present in the moment. As a period when families are able to spend some quality time together and enjoy each other's company, Christmas is the perfect opportunity to step away from our phones, laptops and consoles and concentrate on the things that really matter. Follow our top ten tips for a tech-free festive period and make the most of this holiday season. Merry Christmas!

1. BOARD GAMES CAN BE FUN (HONEST)

OK, no one wants a repeat of that incident when your youngest had to pay triple rent on Mayfair, but going back to basics with a card or board game can be a fantastic bonding experience. Choose a game that even the youngest members of your family can enjoy and have a fun tech-free time.

2. MAKE YOUR OWN DECORATIONS

Spending time on arts and crafts is a brilliant way to relax and spend some productive time offline. Making your own Christmas decorations as a family can become a wholesome tradition and leave you with some treasured mementos, too.

3. GO FOR A WINTER WALK

Not much beats wrapping up warm on a crisp December day and taking a stroll. Whether alone or with the family, a walk is a fantastic way to clear your head and relish the break from hectic normal life. As an extra festive treat, why not make a flask of hot chocolate to take with you?

4. BAKE SOME FESTIVE TREATS

Not all Christmas cooking has to be a stressful chore that's timed with military precision. Baking some simple festive treats like cookies doesn't have to take hours – and will make sure you're stocked up on tasty things to offer any friends or family members who pop round.

5. READ A FAMILY STORY TOGETHER

Turn story time into an event. Make the living room or bedroom into a tech-free space, light some candles, make some hot drinks and reach for a classic Christmas tale. It's a fantastic way to relax before bed, and the right story will help to get the whole family into the festive spirit.

6. TURN OFF NOTIFICATIONS

It sounds obvious, but turning off email and app notifications can give you more control of your relationship with technology. Getting into the habit of checking your phone periodically – rather than reacting every time a notification arrives – helps you to stay present in the moment.

7. FEED THE BIRDS

Food's hard to come by for wildlife in winter, so helping our feathered friends is a very worthwhile reason to put down those devices and reconnect with nature. Fill a bird feeder in the garden or take a snack for the ducks in your local park (but ditch the bread in favour of oats, rice or birdseed).

8. SET DAILY LIMITS

Many apps and devices let you set reminders to let you know how long you've used them for that day. Setting daily limits puts you firmly in charge of your time and will help to ensure you don't miss out on any family Christmas memories because you're engrossed in your phone or laptop.

9. GET ON YOUR BIKE

Exercise, such as going for a run or a bike ride is an excellent way to burn off some of those Yuletide calories while giving your brain and eyes a break from screen-based activity. Physical exertion also helps reduce anxiety and releases endorphins which can improve your sense of wellbeing.

10. MAKE TIME FOR YOURSELF

There can be a lot of pressure to meet up with friends, make video calls and check in with people at Christmas – but remember that you need time to relax as well. Don't feel guilty about not replying to messages and emails immediately – the holiday is your chance to drop down a gear or two.

 **National
Online
Safety**
#WakeUpWednesday